

**Testimony to the Housing Committee Regarding  
HB 6633, *An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing* and Senate Bill 4, *An Act Concerning Connecticut's Current and Present Housing Needs*  
February 28, 2023**

Senator Moore, Representative Luxenberg, Senator Sampson, Representative Scott, and members of the Housing Committee. My name is Robert Dakers and I'm a resident of Glastonbury. I'm also a member of Glastonbury First Church of Christ's Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Team.

I want to offer my **STRONG SUPPORT** for **House Bill 6633: *An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair Share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing*** and **Senate Bill 4, *An Act Concerning Connecticut's Current and Present Housing Needs***.

Connecticut and our cities and towns face an ongoing housing crisis and shortage that's undermining our vitality and harming people in every zip code and most income levels. Housing costs are overwhelming family budgets. Many are forced into unsafe, substandard housing, and subjected to instances of exploitation. The most unfortunate of our neighbors are sent onto the streets. The housing shortage contributes to and exacerbates the workforce shortage damaging our economy. And, to the profound detriment of all, our rates of racial and socio-economic segregation and isolation remain among the highest across the U.S.

Available housing options simply don't match people's needs and changing household demographics. The market's ability to respond to consumer demands and needs are often frustrated by government over-regulation, including zoning and other local rules artificially limiting construction and inflating costs. The result for towns like mine is new housing construction is typically limited to homes costing \$800,000 and up.

HB 6633 offers an opportunity to address this crisis in a fair, thoughtful, and effective manner. It empowers municipalities to meet this crisis in ways best suited to their community, while providing incentives and mechanisms to spur the progress we all so desperately need.

SB 4 would also ensure progress in meeting our housing needs, as well as mitigate and prevent the financial and other hardships often experienced and enabled by our current market and public policies.

Together, we can build a stronger state economy that is more affordable, sustainable and inclusive for all our families and neighbors.

Thank you for consideration of my thoughts on this outstanding opportunity for Connecticut.